

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-04

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TOSEC 108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO S/S FOR SECRETARY

HEREWITH EXCERPTS FRONT PAGE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS ARTICLE  
TUESDAY JANUARY 15 HEADED "SCHLESINGER BACKS MOORER DE-  
NIALS":

DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES R. SCHLESINGER IS PERSONALLY IN-  
VESTIGATING REPORTS OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OPERATION  
IN THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1971 AND EARLY 1972; PENTAGON SPOKES-  
MAN JERRY W. FRIEDHEIM SAID TODAY.

SCHLESINGER WHO BECAME DEFENSE SECRETARY LAST JUNE HAS HAD  
SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ADM. THOMAS H. MOORER, CHAIR-  
MAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ABOUT THE ALLEGED SPYING  
FRIEDHEIM SAID.

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BUT SO FAR DEFENSE HAS FOUND NOTHING TO CONTRADICT

MOORER'S DENIAL OF REPORTS THAT HE RECEIVED NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENTS STOLEN FROM HENRY A. KISSINGER-- THEN NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

TODAY FRIEDHEIM REPEATEDLY SAID THAT SCHLESINGER CONTINUES TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MOORER. HE NOTED AT LEAST FIVE TIMES UNDER INTENSE QUESTIONING THAT NIXON HAD REAPPOINTED MOORER TO A SECOND TERM AS CHAIRMAN IN JUNE 1972--WELL AFTER THE LEAK OF SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS TO THE PRESS AND THEN-DEFENSE SECRETARY MELVIN R. LAIRD'S INVESTIGATION OF THOSE LEAKS.

AT THIS POINT," FRIEDHEIM SAID, "THE SECRETARY HAS SEEN NOTHING THAT WOULD IMPAIR HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES OF ADMIRAL MOORE." THE SPOKESMAN ADDED AT ANOTHER POINT THAT SCHLESINGER HAS FAITH IN MOORER'S "PERSONAL DEDICATION AND HONESTY."

FRIEDHEIM SAID THAT SCHLESINGER WHO BEGAN THE INQUIRY YESTERDAY, HAS NOT YET READ ANY REPORTS BY LAIRD ON THE LATE-1971 INVESTIGATION. THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE SECRETARY IS CONDUCTING "INFORMAL QUESTIONING" IN ORDER TO "APPRISE HIMSELF OF THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION EXISTING 18 MONTHS BEFORE HE TOOK OFFICE."

PRIVATELY, OFFICIALS SAY THAT SCHLESINGER IS TRYING TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED SO HE WILL BE PREPARED IF HE IS CALLED TO TESTIFY IN THE CASE BEFORE CONGRESS.

(NOTE - REMAINDER OF THIS ARTICLE REPEATED POINTS COVERED IN MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED). RUSH

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